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Message Text

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11-L
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 INR-07 CIAE-00 SY-05 SP-02

PRS-01 USIA-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /054 W
---------- 076489
O 121105Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3033

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13131

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: DEMARTINO'S INTEREST IN VISITING U.S.

REF: ROME 13044

1. PROVING ONCE AGAIN THAT THERE ARE FEW SECRETS IN ITALIAN POLITICAL LIFE, SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI) FOUND IT NECESSARY ISSUE CLARIFICATION EVENING SEPTEMBER 11 IN RESPONSE TO NEWS REPORTS THAT SECRETARY DEMARTINO HAD WORKED OUT DETAILS OF A VISIT TO U.S. IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR. OPERATIVE SECTION OF SHORT STATEMENT READS "...IN THE COURSE OF A MEETING, THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INVITATION TO THE U.S. FROM SOME AMERICAN INSTITUTE TO PSI SECRETARY DEMARTINO WAS CONSIDERED (ESAMINATA); AND, ON THE SOCIALIST SIDE THE ANSWER WAS GIVEN THAT, IF SUCH AN INVITATION IS OFFICIALLY FORMULATED, IT WILL BE ACCEPTED".

2. PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT PSI DECIDED TO ISSUE STATEMENT AFTER LEAKS OF DEMARTINO'S MENTION OF IT IN A SECRETARIATE MEETING HAD RAISED A CLAMOR, IN LIGHT OF REACTION TO AMBASSADOR'S INTERVIEW RE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD PCI ENTRY INTO GOVERNMENT (ROME 13107). DEMARTINO IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID THAT THE AMERICANS HAD INVITED HIM SEVERAL TIMES, THAT THERE IS NO REASON WHY HE SHOULDN'T ACCEPT, AND THAT HIS DEPARTURE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE IMMINENT.

3. COMMENT: WILLINGNESS OF DEMARTINO TO STATE PUBLICLY HIS INTEREST IN GOING TO U.S. IN LIGHT OF EXAGGERATED REACTION ON
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PART OF SOME IN HIS PARTY TO AMBASSADOR'S RESTATEMENT OF U.S.

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ATTITUDES TOWARD PCI IS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF SOCIALIST IN-
TENT TO USE VISIT TO SHORE UP ITS IMAGE OF AUTONOMY FROM PCI.
IN VIEW OF THE HIGH VISIBILITY IT WOULD NOW BE ASSURED, IT IS
IMPORTANT THAT IT TAKE PLACE AND IN A STYLE FLATTERING TO THE
PSI'S IMAGE. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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